

Remarks

The withdrawal of the prior rejections based on US 6,482,510 (Rajan) and US 4,568,403 (Egan) is noted with appreciation. In the latest Office Action, new document US 5,308,120 (Thompson) is cited for allegedly disclosing features a) and b) of claim 1, and Egan for allegedly disclosing feature c) of claim 1. Thus, the examiner concludes that independent claim 1 is obvious over Thompson in view of Egan.

Thompson discloses a coupon redemption card and tracking system including a credit card size redemption coupon card. A plurality of mini coupons can be peeled off from coupon card individually. Each redeemed coupon is affixed to a tracking sheet, which has dimensions of a dollar bill so that it can be placed in the till of a cash register.

Thompson teaches that "the coupon card is fabricated from two laminated layers of paper or paper-like material, a clear plastic protective film, and an adhesive coating." (Thompson, column 2, lines 15-16). A layered sheet is produced from "special paper", "adhesive layer" and "peel off coupon layer" and is produced as a "large single sheet or as a roll of the material" which is then "sent to the printer" and "printed ... on both sides of the sheet." (Thompson, column 2, lines 18-26).

Moreover, "the top face of the liner which contains the advertising usually has a plastic film to cover the advertising" (Thompson, column 5, lines 41-42). "After the printing has taken place, then the top face of the tag liner is covered with the durable plastic liner and also the coupons are die-cut during the printing process." (Thompson, column 5, lines 54-56).

Egan relates to a method of making an improved laminated member such as a membership card, label, etc. having printed indicia thereon and which is bonded to a base sheet in a removable manner. "[T]wo sheets of transparent plastic are releasably joined by pressure and heat without any adhesive to provide a bonding force ... so that the two sheets of plastic can be separated with one side of the portion" exposing printed indicia thereon "and with the other plastic sheet remaining on the surface to which the laminated member had been attached to, thereby eliminating any pressure sensitive adhesive being exposed" on either portion of the laminating member (Egan, column 3, lines 19-35).

Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Thompson does not disclose or suggest a modular information system comprising, inter alia, a cash point roll, i.e. a cash register

roll.¹ The Examiner presumably is familiar with such rolls that are rolls of paper which are specifically dedicated to be used for printing receipts within a cash register, credit card terminal or the like. See the present specification at page 3, line 22 and Fig. 4 where a roll is denoted by reference numeral 4'.

In contrast, Thompson clearly does not disclose a cash point (register) roll. Thompson instead discloses a special layered sheet fabricated from a special "coupon layer ... by FASSON label manufacturing company" (Thompson, column 5, lines 35-36), a special "adhesive ... sold by FASSON label, ... SP11G special liner" (Thompson, column 5, lines 26-27) and "special paper" (Thompson, column 2, line 18) that may be rolled for fabricating coupon cards (Thompson, column 2, lines 15-24). This special layered sheet is clearly different from a cash point (register) roll, i.e. a roll of paper which is used, e.g., in a cash register to print receipts thereon. Thompson does not hint at using a cash register roll instead, or that the specified roll could be used as a cash register roll. Using it as a cash register roll is even explicitly excluded since, in the course of fabricating the coupon cards, the layered sheet is cut into credit card sized sections. Thus, Thompson fails to disclose feature a).

Moreover, Thompson also fails to disclose feature b). The "durable plastic liner" arranged on top of the tag liner, which the Examiner refers to, is clearly distinct from an information carrier. According to Thompson, this film is "a clear plastic film for durability, protection, and to provide a pleasing appearance" (Thompson, column 2, lines 32-33), i.e. "a clear protective film" (Thompson, column 2, line 34). Its sole purpose is to yield "durability, protection, and to provide a pleasing appearance" (Thompson, column 2, lines 32-33). In particular, nothing is printed on this film and it does not carry any information. Thus, it clearly cannot be regarded as "information carrier" such that feature b) is not disclosed by Thompson.

Moreover, the Examiner concedes that Thompson fails to disclose feature c) of claim 1. But Egan also fails to disclose feature c). The passage cited by the Examiner discloses that two separate plastic films are "releasably joined by pressure and heat without any adhesive to provide a bonding force" (Egan, column 3, lines 19-20). Thus, Egan does not disclose a bonding element. Rather the elements are joined by pressure and heat. In fact, it is the sole purpose of Egan to provide a method for "making an improved laminated member ... which when removed ... leaves no adhesive on either the base sheet or indicia-bearing member" (Egan, abstract), i.e. Egan exactly avoids using a bonding element. Thus, feature c) is not disclosed by Thompson or Egan.

¹ It is noted that the application was translated from German to English.

Moreover, Egan relates to a method for fabricating laminated members from various plastic materials, which is clearly very different from the field of the present invention. Thus, a person skilled in the art would surely not consider Egan when trying to reach the present invention based on the teachings of Thompson. Thus, a person skilled in the art would not consider combining the teachings of Thompson and Egan.

For at least the above reasons, Thompson and Egan, alone or together, do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1. The same applies, therefore, to the dependent claims.

The dependent claims recite still further features not disclosed or suggested in a combination similar to that claimed.

For instance, Thompson does not disclose the additional features of claim 2. As Thompson fails to disclose a bonding element according to claim 1, as agreed upon by the Examiner, Thompson cannot, at the same time disclose a bonding element according to claim 1 and claim 2, as alleged by the Examiner. The same applies to dependent claim 3. Moreover, Thompson clearly fails to disclose a bonding film "which at least in part forms an information communicating symbol" according to claim 3, as alleged by the Examiner .

Further, concerning dependent claim 7, the passage of Egan cited by the Examiner does not disclose a "bonding film" "formed of visible but at the same time transparent material". Egan only discloses that "two sheets of transparent plastic ... are releasably joined by pressure and heat without any adhesive" (Egan, c. 3, 1. 19-22). Thus, no transparent bonding film is disclosed.

Further, concerning dependent claim 12, the cited passage of Egan does not at all disclose or relate to a "bonding element formed as a magnetically and/or electrostatically loaded area".

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

The absence in this reply of any comments on the other contentions set forth in the Office Action should not be construed to be an acquiescence therein. Rather, no comment is needed since the rejections should be withdrawn for at least the foregoing reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

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